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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

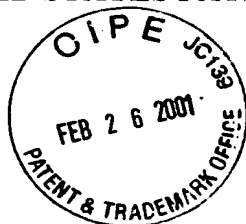
In Re application of

DAVIS

Serial No.: 09/446,951

Filed: February 28, 2000

For: STEP APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 3611

Examiner: Cuff, M.

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TC 3600 MAIL ROOM

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to an Office Action dated November 24, 2000, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** Claims 2, 4 and 5 without prejudice.

Please **AMEND** Claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Amended) A step [Step] apparatus including:

a mounting portion adapted to [engage a vehicle in the region of the towing hitch assembly and] be secured to the vehicle by the hitch assembly thereof [or a portion thereof in lieu of a portion of the hitch assembly]; and

a step portion [supported on said mounting portion] hinged to the mounting portion whereby the step portion may be moved from a first position where the step is disposed above